GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4016
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
Broadband Proliferation in Rural Areas
Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the broadband proliferation provided in rural areas by each of the Telecom Service Providers (TSP), State and TSP-wise including BSNL;

(b) whether the private service providers are showing less interest in expansion of the internet service in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there are about 33.29 Million rural broadband subscribers (wireline + wireless) in the country as on 31st March 2016. Out of this, about 4.06 Million rural broadband subscribers have been provided by Public Sector Unit (PSU) service providers namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and rest of the 29.23 Million rural broadband subscribers have been provided by private service providers.

The service area wise details of total number of rural broadband subscribers in the country are enclosed as Annexure-I. Further, TSP-wise number of rural broadband subscribers is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(b)&(c) As per TRAI, there are about 111.94 Million rural internet subscribers in the country as on 31st March 2016. Out of this, 103.89 Million are provided by private service providers and 8.05 Million have been provided by PSU service providers.

The service-area wise number of rural internet connections provided by PSU and private service providers as on 31st March 2016 are enclosed as Annexure-III.

In order to further improve proliferation of Broadband Services in rural areas, National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project renamed as BharatNet has been planned by the Government to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Under this project, 1,53,340 km pipe and 1,28,813 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been laid connecting 56,117 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with OFC upto 30.07.2016. Out of these, 7607 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity upto 100 Mbps bandwidth.

Annexure-I

Service Area-wise, Rural Broadband subscriber-base as on 31stMarch, 2016 reported by Service Providers
<pre>
Telecom Service Area No. of Rural Subscribers in Millions
Andhra Pradesh 3.43
Assam 0.84
Bihar 1.95
Delhi 0.45
Gujarat 1.95
Haryana 0.89
Himachal Pradesh 0.74
Jammu & Kashmir 0.67
Karnataka 1.92
Kerala 2.87
Kolkata 0.3
Madhya Pradesh 1.07
Maharashtra 3.18
Mumbai 0.12
North East 0.62
Orissa 0.65
Punjab 1.12

Rajasthan 1.85
Tamil Nadu 3.32
UP (East) 1.81
UP (West) 1.32
West Bengal 2.21
Total 33.29

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Annexure-II

Service Area-wise, Rural Broadband subscriber-base as on 31st March, 2016 reported by Service Providers
<pre>
Name of the Service Provider Number of Rural Broadband Subscribers
Bharti Airtel Ltd. 13223860
Idea Cellular Limited* 7025343
Vodafone* 5062051
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. 4061131
Aircel 2499028
Reliance Communications 479495
Tata* 473852
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd. 218755
Asianet Satellite Communications Ltd. 87216
GTPL Hathway Private Limited 67517
Apna Telelink Ltd. 14962
Alliance Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd. 12561
Pioneer eLabs Ltd. 10063
Limras Eronet Broadband Service Pvt Ltd 8019
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. 6709
SITI Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd. 5237
Quadrant Televentures Ltd. 5046
City Online Services Ltd 4709
World Phone Internet Services Pvt Ltd 4676
Nettlinx Ltd. 3843
Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. 2388
Digital Network associates Pvt. Ltd 2284
Blazenet Ltd. 1725
Kaizen Infonet Pvt Ltd 1539
Siliguri Internet & Cable TV Pvt. Ltd. 976
North East Data Network Pvt Ltd. 877
Capture Network Systems Pvt. Ltd. 805
Ishan Netsol Pvt Ltd 790
Yashash Cable Network Pvt Ltd 653
Airgenie Communications Pvt. Ltd. 638
Meghbela Cable & Broadband Servies (P) Ltd 427
Touch Net India Pvt. Ltd. 395
Correl IT Services Pvt. Ltd. 246
Sphier Infotech Pvt. Ltd. 185
Tamana Winet Pvt. Ltd. 185
Readylink Internet Services Pvt Ltd 141
Swiftmail Communications Ltd. 110
Sab Infotech 94
Shri Vinayagaa Internet Pvt Ltd 58
HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd. 31
Bhiwani Communications Pvt. Ltd. 27
Rida Communication Pvt. Ltd. 27
Kappa Internet Services Pvt Ltd. 26
Aeroway Networks Pvt Ltd. 23
Oasis Cable Pvt Ltd. 23
Symbois Creations Pvt. Ltd. 18
CJ Online Pvt. Ltd. 5
Adya Tech One Services Pvt Ltd 4
Sanyog Networks Pvt Ltd 4
Nextgen Communications Ltd. 3
ERNET India 1
Microsense Pvt. Ltd. 1
Total 33,288,782
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*Includes Group Companies

Annexure-III

Private & PSU wise Rural Internet Subscribers as on 31st March, 2016 as reported by Service Providers

(In Millions)
<pre>
Telecom Service Area Internet Rural Subscribers of Private Service Providers Internet Rural Subscribers of PSU Service Providers

Andhra Pradesh 7.71 1.42
Assam 3.09 0.13
Bihar 8.64 0.23
Delhi 0.92 0.01
Gujarat 5.78 0.28
Haryana 2.69 0.28
Himachal Pradesh 1.45 0.31
Jammu & Kashmir 1.80 0.04
Karnataka 5.10 0.44
Kerala 4.01 1.55
Kolkata 0.55 0.00
Madhya Pradesh 6.02 0.22
Maharashtra 9.15 0.61
Mumbai 0.28 0.00
North East 1.82 0.15
Orissa 3.05 0.31
Punjab 4.33 0.38
Rajasthan 6.64 0.37
Tamil Nadu 6.41 0.44
UP (East) 10.75 0.46
UP (West) 6.28 0.20
West Bengal 7.42 0.22
Total 103.89 8.05
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